

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1347

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend former Deputy Joseph Wehre of the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office for his selfless act of heroism.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with dedicated law enforcement officers who risk their personal safety, even their lives, to protect and serve their communities in times of disaster and crisis; and

WHEREAS, it is the very nature of law enforcement that its officers are often the first responders to situations that threaten the public safety, and these brave men and women continue to earn our loyalty and appreciation with their heroism and professionalism during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, two members of the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office were truly heroic in their response to an EF2 tornado that struck Kingston Springs and the surrounding area on the morning of December 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, one of those brave individuals is former Deputy Joseph Wehre of the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office, who has rightfully been hailed as a hero for his actions in Kingston Springs on that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Cheatham County Sheriff's Office deputies Joseph Wehre and Randall Smith were driving across the Joe A. Taylor Memorial Bridge over the Harpeth River in Kingston Springs in their squad car when they found themselves in the path of a destructive tornado; and

WHEREAS, after several minutes sheltering in place as the tornado's ferocious winds pounded their vehicle, the deputies received a call to respond to a woman who was trapped beneath her home in Kingston Springs; and

WHEREAS, traveling through darkness, debris, high winds, heavy rain, and lightning with little regard for their own safety, Deputy Wehre and his partner made first contact with the

victim and transmitted damage and injury assessment information to other responders, which actions sped up the response from fire and rescue units to transport the woman to the hospital; and

WHEREAS, all told, some twenty homes were destroyed and 100 were damaged by the tornado, which spanned 400 yards in width and traveled on the ground for more than ten miles; and

WHEREAS, throughout that perilous morning, former Deputy Joseph Wehre performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to extend our gratitude and approbation to former Deputy Joseph Wehre of the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend former Deputy Joseph Wehre of the Cheatham County Sheriff's Office for his heroism in coming to the rescue of his fellow citizens during the Kingston Springs tornado and thank him for a dangerous job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.